

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

FROM: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President

DATE: December 7, 2015

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

The Campaign for Stony Brook is now public. Our \$600 million comprehensive fundraising campaign is the largest in SUNY history. More than 30,000 friends, alumni, foundations, and corporations have already committed more than \$426 million in new gifts and pledges to date. The following commitments are examples of the tremendous support we continue to garner to advance the University's mission:

- \$7 million from the **Della Pietra Family** for the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics and the Global Health Institute
- A \$5 million Challenge Grant from the **Glenn and Eva Dubin Family Foundation** for a new indoor athletic training center
- A bequest of \$1.5 million from **Evelyn Berezin** to the College of Arts and Sciences
- \$701,800 from **Empowerment Charitable Trust** to develop teaching tools that use literature to enhance global understanding
- \$164,268 from the **Stony Brook Faculty Student Association** for the Faculty Student Association Scholarship
- \$100,000 from the **Three Graces Foundation, Inc.** for educational programs in Madagascar
- A bequest of \$100,000 from **Helen A. Harrison** to the College of Arts and Sciences
- A bequest of \$100,000 from **Marie C. Gelato** to the Staller Center for the Arts

II. ALUMNI RELATED UPDATES**Former Stony Brook Undergraduate and Medical Student Helps Create Scholarship for Minorities**

Dr. Alicia Stovell-Washington '84, '88 first encountered **Dr. Aldustus Jordan** at a meeting for minority undergraduate students interested in medical school during her freshman year. Jordan, the medical school's Associate Dean of Student & Minority Affairs, mentored Stovell-Washington during her undergraduate career and by her senior year she was accepted into several medical schools, including Stony Brook's. Currently an eye surgeon in Chicago and the chair of the Clinical Governance Committee at the Bermuda Hospitals Board, Stovell-Washington donated

\$160,000 over five years, to cover the costs for one student to go through Stony Brook's medical school. She was the first to contribute to a fund that honors her former mentor: the "Dr. Aldustus Jordan Underrepresented Minorities in Medicine Endowed Alumni Scholarship."

Black and Latino Alumni Network Established Endowed Scholarship

It was recently announced that the Black and Latino Alumni Network Leaders created a scholarship to help give other students a hand — and to promote the University's goal of a diverse student body. This is the first scholarship funded by one of our alumni chapters. The new endowment, currently totaling more than \$40,000 with the goal of reaching \$100,000, will allow the Network to name its first scholarship recipient in fall 2016. Scholarship candidates must be full-time students who demonstrate financial need, along with commitment to civic engagement and social responsibility. Preference will be given to incoming freshmen with high academic achievement. Ideal candidates should have a minimum 3.5 high school grade point average and must maintain a minimum 3.0 in order to retain the scholarship.

Alumni donors for this scholarship include (in alphabetical order): **Lennie J. Carter** '03, '04; **Morgan A. Cato** '04, '05; **Thierry S. Cazeau** '91, '94; **Errol A. Cockfield** '94; **Dawn Cotter-Jenkins** '91 and her husband **Patrick Jenkins** '90; **Guy-Max Delphin** '97; **J.R. Dorsainvil** '02; **Alphonzo Grant** '92, '93; **Deneise Jennings-Houston** '79; **Tracy M. King-Sanchez** '92, '94, '12 and her husband **David E. Sanchez** '92; **Carla La Chapelle** '98; **Nancy M. Maignan** '85; **Stephan R. Roker** '88; and **Bedel Saget** '88. **SBF Management Group, LLC** and **Suffolk Pediatric Center** donated as well.

III. BIG DATA RESEARCH GETS BIG BOOST WITH FUNDING FOR COMPUTER CLUSTER

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded the Stony Brook University Institute for Advanced Computational Science (IACS) a \$1.4 million Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) grant to acquire an additional high-performance computer system that will further build the University's computational capacity and big data analyses in research and education initiatives encompassing all fields. Total funding for the computer cluster will reach \$2 million, based on \$600,000 in matching grants from internal University sources and the Empire State Development's NYSTAR program (\$300,000).

The computer cluster will be installed during the first half of 2016 and will replace a previous high-performance cluster, called "SeaWulf." To date the cluster has been an important component to advancing research and education in the areas of Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Chemistry, Biomedical Engineering, Applied Math, Physics, Geosciences, Pharmacology and Public Health. The new SeaWulf will have 50 times the processing power of its predecessor — enabling faster and more powerful analyses of huge data sets in all these fields of study and in many other disciplines.

The new high-performance computer cluster will primarily be used to support education and research at Stony Brook University, although a portion of its capacity (up to 30 percent) will be made available for users across the SUNY educational system and regional industries. The MRI grant and matching funds enables the IACS to purchase and operate SeaWulf for four years. The

computer cluster will be the second high-performance system installed by the IACS within one year. The first was completed in October 2015 and unveiled during the IACS grand opening.

IV. **RECENTLY ANNOUNCED DEPARTURES AND APPOINTMENTS**

Dennis N. Assanis Named Next President of the University of Delaware

Dennis N. Assanis, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs at Stony Brook University since October 2011, will succeed Patrick T. Harker as the next President of the University of Delaware, effective July 2016. During his tenure as chief academic officer of Stony Brook University, Provost Assanis' unwavering focus on building on academic excellence has resulted in enhancing strengths in the STEM disciplines; fostering interdisciplinary cluster hiring initiatives; re-invigorating the role of arts, humanities and social sciences in the modern research university; and strengthening collaborations with Stony Brook Medicine and BNL. As President of the University of Delaware, Provost Assanis is taking the helm of a top-ranked university in federal research and development support for science and engineering, with a longstanding tradition of academic excellence. Based on what he has helped accomplish at Stony Brook for the past four years, I am sure he will lead UD to continued success.

To ensure a seamless transition, we will immediately facilitate a national search for a new Provost, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs. I am grateful to Provost Assanis for his thoughtful and strategic leadership, and for all he has accomplished during his time at Stony Brook. I am particularly appreciative that Dennis has chosen to finish out the academic year at Stony Brook University.

Robert L. Megna, M.P.A., M.SC., Appointed Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration

After a comprehensive national search, **Robert L. Megna**, M.P.A., M.SC., Executive Director of the New York State Thruway Authority and Canal Corporation, has been appointed Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration at Stony Brook University, effective January 19, 2016. As Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration at Stony Brook, Megna will serve as the senior executive responsible for managing the institution's financial, administrative and facilities operations. He will also work closely with the Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs, and with the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine. Megna brings nearly 30 years of strategic fiscal and operational leadership to this position and I look forward to the contributions he will make.

As Executive Director of the Thruway Authority and Canal Corporation, an appointment he accepted in January of this year, Megna oversees operations and finances, including the construction of the New NY Bridge to replace the Tappan Zee. Prior to joining the Thruway Authority, he served as Budget Director for the New York State Division of the Budget since 2009, during which time New York State achieved its highest financial ratings in 40 years from the three major credit rating agencies. As Budget Director, Megna reported to the New York State Governor and interacted regularly with State Agency Commissioners, Legislative leaders, local elected officials and administrative officers and senior Federal government officials. He was responsible for the overall development and management of the State's fiscal policy, including the oversight of the State's \$145 billion annual budget, the preparation of budget recommendations for all State

agencies and programs, economic and revenue forecasting, tax policy, fiscal planning, capital financing and management of the State's debt portfolio, as well as pensions and employee benefits. Megna earned a Master of Science in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London; he received his BA in Economics and a Master of Public Affairs both from Fordham University.

Judy Greiman, Chief Deputy to the President, Expands Role as Vice President for Government and Community Relations

It is my pleasure to announce that **Judy Greiman**, Chief Deputy to the President, has expanded her role and assumed the duties within the office of the Vice President for Government and Community Relations. Judy has been serving as the University's acting principal officer for government and community relations since September 1. We are fortunate to have someone as experienced and insightful as Judy working on behalf of Stony Brook University in this expanded role. Judy's experience in higher education administration, government relations and advocacy is extensive.

Starting in 1998, Judy served as president of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), which represents 16 accredited nonprofit independent colleges and universities in Connecticut. In this role, she was responsible for public policy development, government relations, public relations, research, and purchasing coordination work on behalf of the sixteen member colleges and universities. She was also responsible for strengthening financial aid programs for students. Prior to her appointment at CCIC, Judy served as Chief Administrative Officer for the Connecticut State University System Office. Earlier, she worked at the State Office of Policy and Management where she served in a variety of positions that ranged from Counsel to Deputy Secretary.

V. STUDENT AFFAIRS LAUNCHES “CAPS AFTER HOURS”

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) has a new free service available to all Stony Brook students which provides counseling support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Students can speak with a licensed mental health counselor about anything of concern (for example: anxiety about classwork, stress over a relationship, or if they are just having a bad day and need to talk with someone) by calling (631) 632-6720. For more information about services and resources available to assist students, visit: www.stonybrook.edu/caps.

VI. FOUR SIEMENS COMPETITION WINNERS MENTORED AT STONY BROOK HEAD TO NATIONAL FINALS

Four high school students from around the country who were mentored by Stony Brook University faculty have been named national finalists in the 2015 Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology – one of the nation's leading research competitions for high school students. Research on microbial water purification and power generation earned **Kimberly Te**, of Manhasset Senior High School, the title of winning team for region four, a \$6,000 shared scholarship and a spot in the finals. Kimberly was co-mentored by Professor **Miriam Rafailovich**, PhD (Material Sciences & Engineering) and **Stephen Walker**, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Oral Biology and Pathology at the School of Dental Medicine. Research on 3-D tissue printing earned **Daniel Chae** of Oakton, Va.; **Alan Tan** of Fremont, Calif.; and **Sidharth Bommakanti**, of Pleasanton, Calif., the title of winning team for region six, a \$6,000 shared scholarship and a spot in the finals.

The team was mentored by **Adrianna Pinkas-Sarafova**, Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Material Sciences & Engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The four Stony Brook-mentored students will present their work at the National Finals competition at George Washington University taking place December 4-8. They are competing for additional scholarship awards, including a top team prize of \$100,000.

VII. FACULTY ACCOLADES

Four Stony Brook University Professors Elected AAAS 2015 Fellows

Four Stony Brook Professors – **Michael Bell**, **David Conover**, **Michael Frohman**, and **Ellen Pikitch** – have been elected Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for their work toward the advancement of science and/or its applications. The fellows will be honored on February 13, 2016, at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Michael Bell, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution, was elected as an AAAS Fellow for his extensive contributions to the field of evolutionary biology. **David Conover**, PhD, is the Vice President for Research at Stony Brook University, and a Professor in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS). He was elected as an AAAS Fellow for his distinguished contributions to the field of evolutionary ecology, particularly regarding adaptive variation in life histories of marine fishes and for leadership of ocean sciences. **Michael Frohman**, MD, PhD, Chair of the Department of Pharmacological Sciences at Stony Brook University School of Medicine, was elected as an AAAS Fellow for his development of a powerful molecular biological technique called “5’ RACE,” and for the cloning of a family of human signal transduction enzymes that generate lipid second messenger signals. **Ellen Pikitch**, PhD, is a SoMAS Professor and Executive Director of the Institute for Ocean Conservation Science. She was elected as an AAAS Fellow for her distinguished contributions to the fields of fisheries and conservation science, particularly for the development and application of quantitative methods to sustainably manage overexploited marine fishes.

Seven Stony Brook Faculty Appointed to SUNY Distinguished Ranks

As recommended by campus colleagues and SUNY Chancellor **Nancy L. Zimpher**, seven Stony Brook University faculty members have been approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees for appointment to the distinguished ranks. The Distinguished Professorship is conferred upon faculty having achieved national or international prominence and a distinguished reputation within the individual’s chosen field through significant contributions to the research and scholarship, or through artistic performance or achievement in the fine and performing arts. Appointed to this rank are: **Lawrence Dutton**, a Professor of Viola and Chamber Music in the Department of Music; **Benjamin Hsiao**, Professor in the Department of Chemistry; **Chang Kee Jung**, a Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy; **Daniel Klein**, a Professor in the Department of Psychology; **Phillip Setzer**, a Professor of Violin in the Department of Music; and **Allen Tannenbaum**, a Professor in the Institute for Advanced Computational Science. **Nancy Hollingsworth**, a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology, was appointed to the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professorship. This rank is conferred upon instructional faculty for outstanding teaching competence at the graduate, undergraduate, or professional levels.

Psychology Professor Receives National Award for Motivating Students

Daniel O’Leary, Distinguished Professor of Clinical Psychology, is one of ten professors in the country recently honored with a \$25,000 cash tribute from the Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award Trust for motivating former students to make a difference in their community. Dr. O’Leary’s career has involved research on externalizing problems of children and adults, with the first half of his career focusing on children with issues such as Conduct Problems and ADHD, and the second half on aggression of adults in intimate relationships. He has mentored 50 doctoral dissertations and 13 postdoctoral research fellows across 44 years. Two former Stony Brook students – **Dr. Suzanne Bennett Johnson** (who is viewed as the “grandmother” of a whole movement to include psychological and behavioral services in the management of people with diabetes) and **Dr. William E. Pelham** (who is viewed as the “grandfather” of behavioral and multimodal interventions for ADHD, which are now widely viewed as essential components of treatment for ADHD) – recommended Professor O’Leary for the award.

Roger Rosenblatt Wins Kenyon Review Award for Literary Achievement

Roger Rosenblatt, Distinguished Professor of Writing and English, has been selected as the winner of the 2015 Kenyon Review Award for Literary Achievement by the internationally acclaimed literary journal The Kenyon Review. Rosenblatt teaches in the MFA in Creative Writing and Literature program at Stony Brook Southampton. He accepted the award at a gala dinner held in his honor in New York City on November 5. The prize honors "careers of extraordinary literary achievement, recognizing writers whose influence and importance have shaped the American literary landscape. It celebrates writers for the courage of their vision, their unparalleled imagination, and for the beauty of their art." Professor Rosenblatt is the author of 17 books, five of which have been New York Times Notable Books, and six off-Broadway plays. His one-man show, *Free Speech in America*, was cited by the Times as one of the 10 best plays of 1991.

VIII. STUDENT ACCOLADES

Graduate Student Prachi Chitnis Receives European Physical Society Award

Prachi Chitnis, a Stony Brook University graduate student mentored by **Kevin Brown**, a physicist at the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Brookhaven National Laboratory’s Collider-Accelerator Department, has been awarded the 2015 Experimental Physics Control Systems Prize by the European Physical Society (EPS) for her “significant contributions to the reliability of the RHIC beam permit system.” Chitnis is a PhD candidate in electrical engineering and has focused her thesis work on machine protection systems; in particular, analyzing reliability and vulnerabilities of the beam permit and quench detector systems at Brookhaven’s Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) – systems that are responsible for monitoring the operation of the beam and shutting it down if it detects a fault.

PhD Student Wins Silver Medal at International Supercomputing Research Competition

Doctoral student **Na Zhang** recently competed at the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Student Research Competition (SRC) at the International Conference of Supercomputing 2015. Her work, “Efficient Multiscale Platelets Modeling Using Supercomputers,” won her a silver

medal. Zhang works with Professor **Yuefan Deng**, Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics and the Institute for Advanced Computational Science. The ACM SRC, sponsored by Microsoft Research, is an internationally recognized forum which enables undergraduate and graduate students to present work before a panel of judges and interact with top researchers.

IX. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: UNDERGRADUATE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Nominations are being sought for Stony Brook University's Undergraduate Recognition Awards. Awards for Academic Excellence are given for academic accomplishments that go beyond the classroom experience. Awards for Outstanding Achievement are presented for excellence in activities that relate to the co-curricular life of the University and surrounding community. The University's 34th Undergraduate Excellence and Outstanding Achievement Annual Ceremony will be held on April 25, 2016. This ceremony provides an opportunity to publicly honor the outstanding accomplishments of our undergraduate students and the faculty and staff who mentor them. The deadline for submissions is **February 12, 2016**. For guidelines and eligibility criteria, please visit: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/duc/awards/undergrecog.html>.

X. SBU SET TO CELEBRATE WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Stony Brook will celebrate Winter Commencement on **Thursday, December 17 in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena**. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and confer bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees for summer 2015 and fall 2015 graduates.

XI. RECENT EVENTS

Annual Windmill Lighting and Festivities at Stony Brook Southampton

The annual holiday Windmill Lighting took place on December 4 on the Southampton Campus. Long Island's favorite college mascot, Wolfie, was on hand for the celebration, which featured a photo booth, holiday treats, crafts for children, and steaming cups of hot cocoa.

15th Annual Festival of Lights Ushers in Holiday Season

The Stony Brook campus community came together to participate in the 15th Annual Festival of Lights on Wednesday, December 2 in the Student Activities Center's Sidney Gelber Auditorium. The festival is an intercultural program about the diversity of religions through the many celebrations that occur during the holiday season. The event featured several presentations and cultural performances in song, dance, poetry and music, as well as the opportunity to make holiday crafts. This annual tradition is coordinated by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Interfaith Center, in conjunction with several campus departments and 14 student organizations.

NPR Presents "Family Matters" Program

National Public Radio (NPR) brought their "Family Matters" program to the Charles B. Wang Theater on November 12. Hosted by NPR Morning Edition host **David Greene** and NPR reporter **Sonari Ginton**, this interactive event connected regular people with NPR's guest hosts, who are selected from a pool of nationally recognized finance experts, for a lively, fun, educational chat about money.

Stony Brook Hosts TEDx Event

Stony Brook hosted its third TEDxSBU event in the Charles B. Wang Center Theater on November 6. This year's theme was "The Master Pieces" and featured 17 speakers and performers, which included Stony Brook students, faculty, staff, and alumni. To view this year's speakers, visit: <http://tedxsbu.stonybrook.edu/previous-events/2015-the-master-pieces/>.

Veterans Day Celebrated

This year's Veterans Day Ceremony took place on November 4 in the Student Activities Center's Sidney Gelber Auditorium. The ceremony was dedicated to the students, alumni, faculty, staff and families who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces – especially those students that have postponed their education to serve in moments of need.

XII. ATHLETICS UPDATE

Stony Brook Sports Rank Among the NCAA's Best in Graduation Success Rate

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) announces the Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of all Division I institutions each year. Information recently released by the NCAA demonstrates that Stony Brook's student-athletes continue to distinguish themselves in the classroom. Men's and women's cross country/track and field and volleyball each compiled a perfect 100 percent graduation success rate. Men's basketball rate of 91 percent came in 17 points higher than the national average, while baseball's 82 percent was five points better than the nation. The football team's rate of 74 percent is three points higher than the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) national average. The GSR measures those student-athletes who enrolled in 2008 and graduated within six years. Overall, the GSR for the 2008 cohort at Stony Brook was at 81 percent, five points up from the 2007 cohort, and the highest rate in the school's history since the NCAA began collecting official GSR data.

Annual Stuff-A-Bus Toy Drive

The Seawolves Student-Athlete Stuff-A-Bus Toy Drive is an Athletics holiday tradition. Each December, Seawolves student-athletes visit the Stony Brook Pediatric Oncology Center to deliver donated toys to patients undergoing cancer treatment and their siblings. If you would like to participate, please drop off a new, unwrapped toy to the Seawolves Ticket Office in the Indoor Sports Complex during the office's normal business hours: Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also drop off toys at any of the following Stony Brook basketball games:

- Stony Brook Women's Basketball vs. Morgan State – Monday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.
- Stony Brook Men's Basketball vs. Hofstra – Sunday, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m.
- Stony Brook Women's Basketball vs. LIU Brooklyn – Monday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.

Toy pickup is also available for Stony Brook University offices. Please email Chris Murray at Chris.Murray@Stonybrook.edu if you would like to schedule a pickup time.

Team Updates¹

- **Football** – Stony Brook football closed out the 2015 season with a three-game winning streak. The team ended its season on November 20 with a 20-2 victory over UAlbany in a CAA matchup. By winning the “Empire Clash” the team claimed The Golden Apple trophy. Stony Brook finished the regular season with the #1 ranked defense in the nation.
- **Women's Cross Country** – After winning the America East Individual Championship, junior **Christina Melian** (Staten Island, NY) finished 3rd in the NCAA Regional meet and advanced to the NCAA National Championship held in Louisville, KY on November 21.
- **Women's Basketball** – The team is off to a 3-3 start with wins over Columbia, Iona and St. Peter's. Senior **Brittany Snow** (Shamong, NJ) has scored in double figures in four games so far, while freshman **Ogechi Anyagaligbo** (Miami, FL) earned America East Rookie of the Week honors and was twice named the Under Armour America East Rookie of the Week.
- **Men's Basketball** – The men's basketball team is off to a 3-2 start. After defeating United States Merchant Marine Academy, the team fell to #19 Vanderbilt and perennial NCAA tournament team Western Kentucky. Behind stellar performances by seniors **Carson "Tre" Pureifoy** (Winona, NJ) and **Jameel Warney** (Plainfield, NJ), the Seawolves took Vanderbilt to overtime and lost by one point to Western Kentucky. The team recently defeated Loyola Maryland 76-63 and beat Farmingdale State 91-42.

¹ As of December 2